



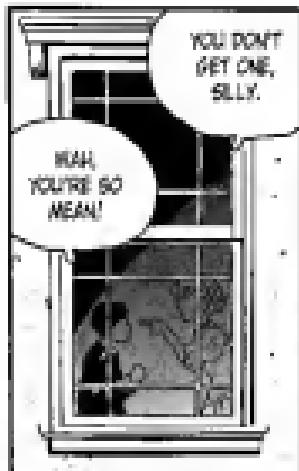
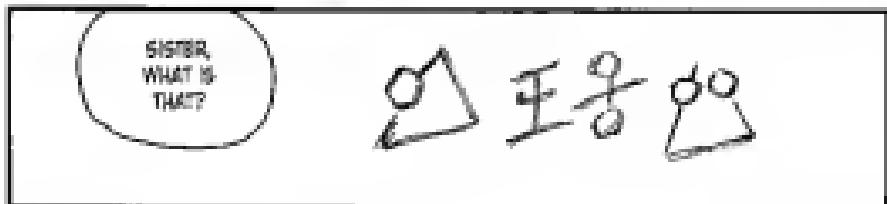
第三話

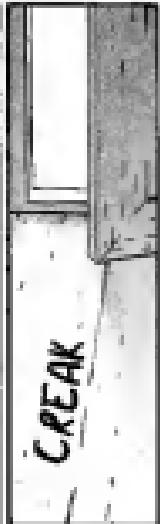
うつぼの話

Chapter 3

The Tale of the Utsubo-bune

1918 - OUTSKIRTS OF YEKATERINBURG, URAL REGION





SPG - "SHATTERED"

王宮



SPG - "SHATTERED"



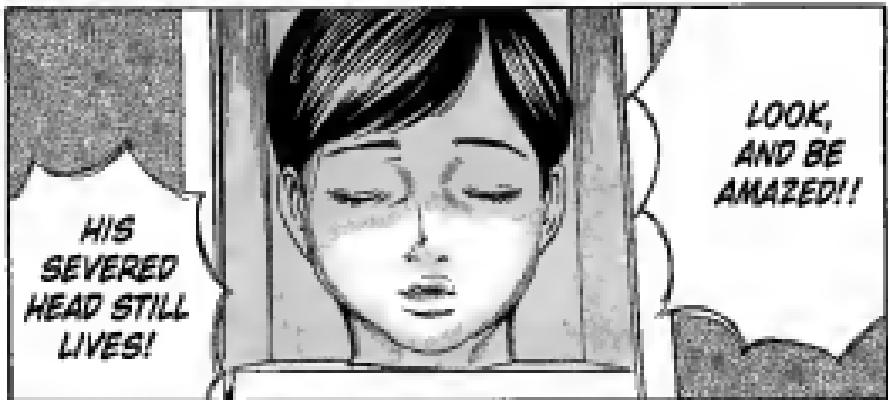
1904 (YEAR 37 OF THE MEIJI ERA) ASAKUSA, TOKYO



puffer puffer puffer







卷之三



AS YOU
CAN SEE,
HE STILL
SPEAKS...

10
11



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THERE'S NO SCIENTIFICALLY POSSIBLE WAY THAT A SHREDDED HEAD COULD SPEAK.

THERE'S A MIRROR INSIDE THE TABLE THAT REFLECTS THE IMAGE OF A BOY HIDING OFFSTAGE.

IT'S A SIMPLE TRICK, REALLY.

DON'T YOU LECTURE ME, YOU POMPOUS BASTARD! WHILE YOU'VE BEEN SITTING ON YOUR ASS, I'VE BEEN WORKING AS A REPORTER ON THE FRONT LINES!!

HMM...? I JUST NOTICED, BUT YOU LOOK TERRIBLE...

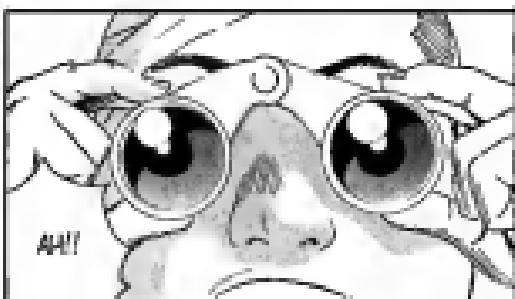
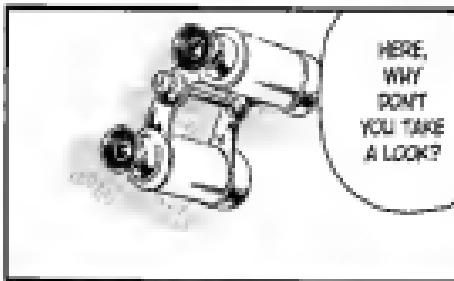
I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT SOMEONE AS DEDICATED TO LITERARY REALISM AS YOU ARE WOULD BE MORE SKEPTICAL, TAKAMAKU! OR PERHAPS EVEN YOU ALLOWED YOURSELF TO BE CARRIED AWAY?

UHH... WHATEVER.







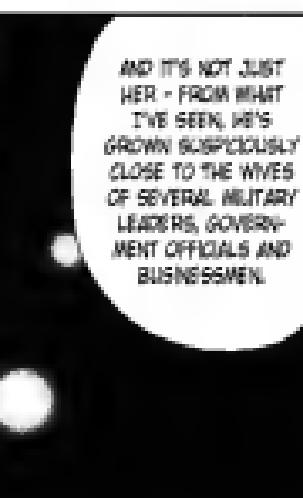
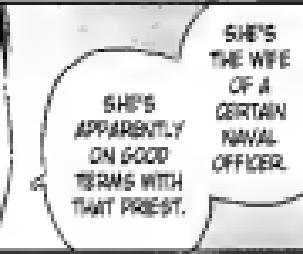
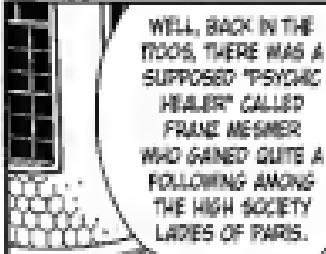


THERE'S A REAL ARISTOCRATIC-LOOKING LADY IN THERE... I WONDER WHO SHE IS?



WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE NEXT ROOM?

WELL, BACK IN THE MOOS, THERE WAS A SUPPOSED "PSYCHIC HEALER" CALLED FRANZ MESMER WHO GAINED QUITE A FOLLOWING AMONG THE HIGH SOCIETY LADIES OF PARIS.

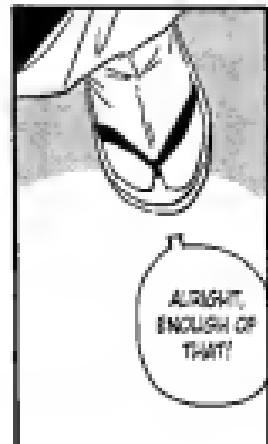




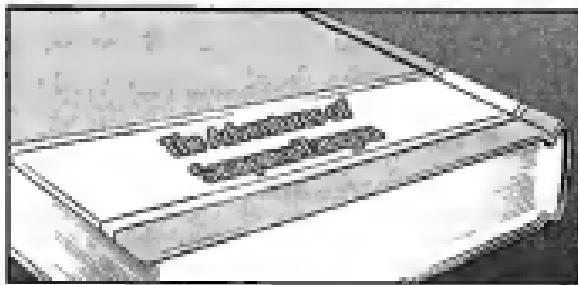
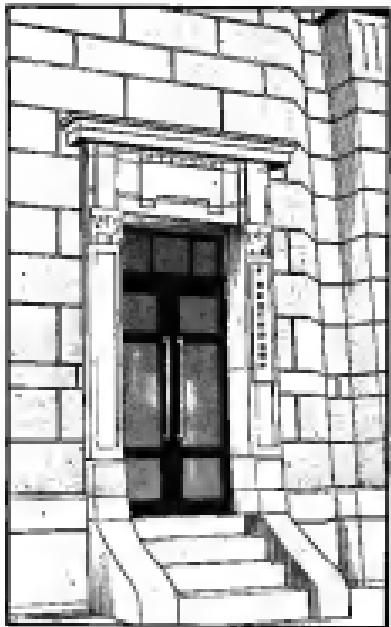
















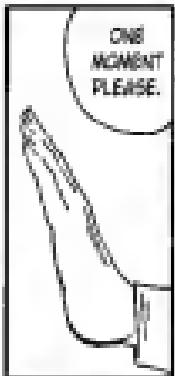




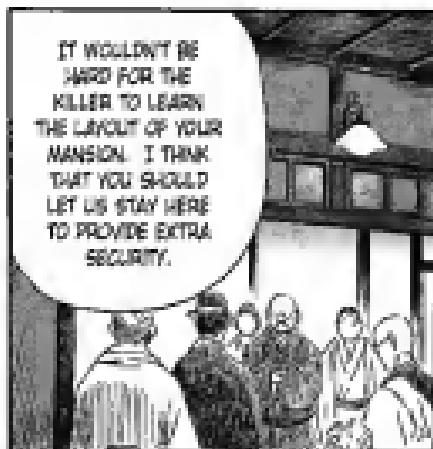
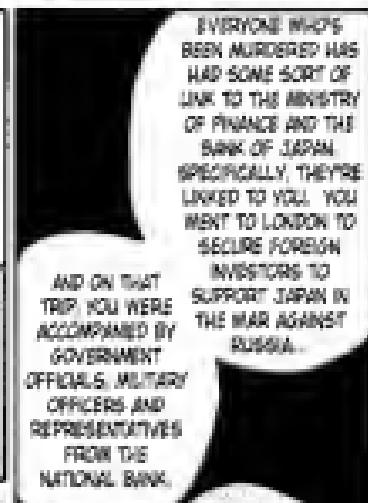
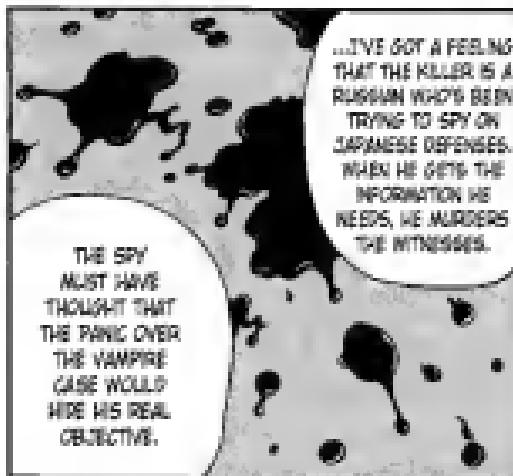
OOOH... SO IT'S
POSSIBLE THAT
THERE COULD BE
SOMEONE ELSE WITH
THE POWER TO
RAISE THE DEAD...?











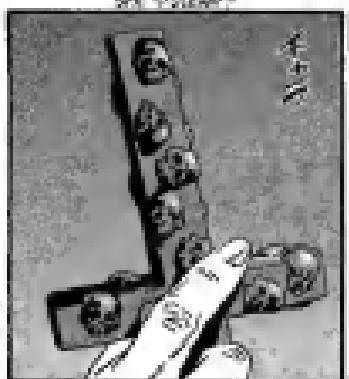








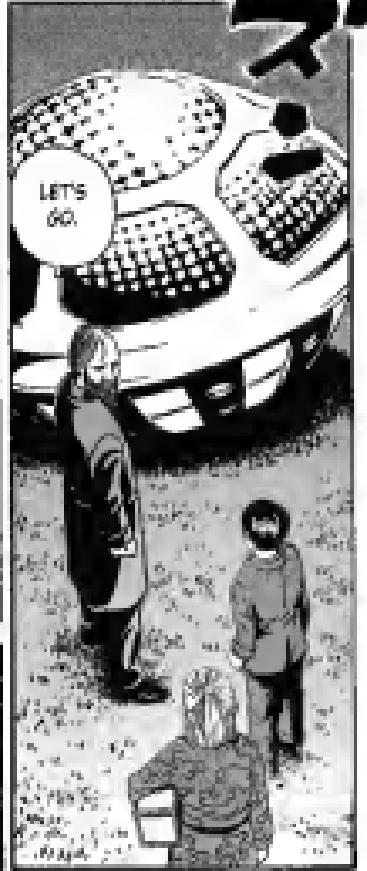


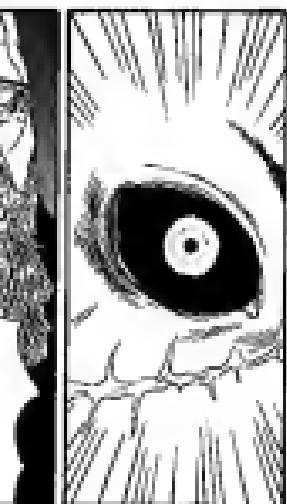


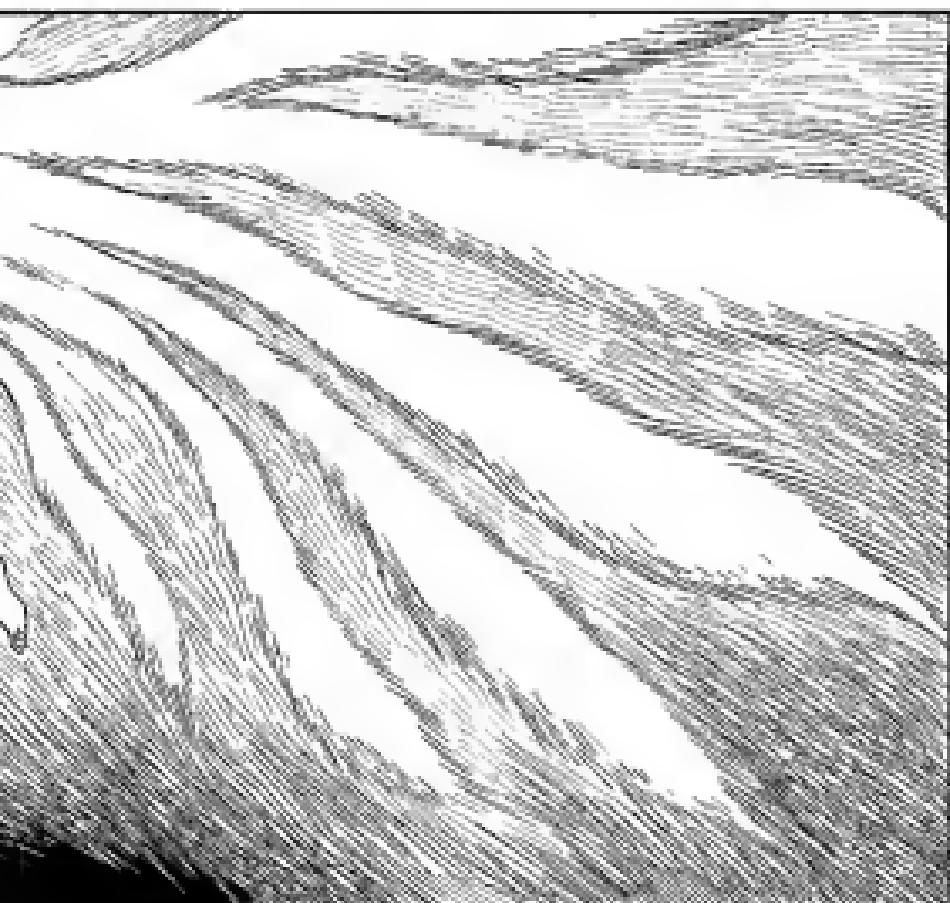




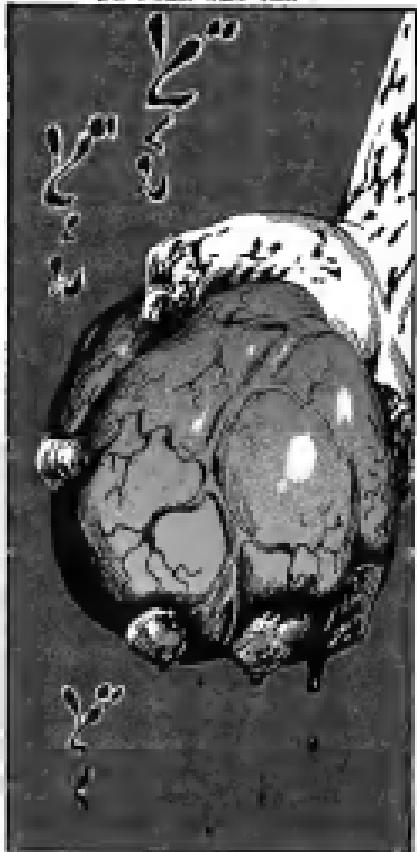












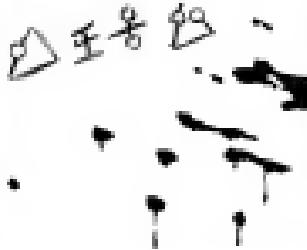




NOOOO!!
ALEXEI!!



...YES. IT'S
BEEN A
YEAR SINCE
WE FLED
RUSSIA.
THAT WAS IN
1998...





COME WITH ME.
WE MUST ESCAPE
QUICKLY...

THIS BOY CARRIES THE BLOOD OF THE EMPEROR WHO HAD ME KILLED... BUT HIS BLOOD IS THE BLOOD OF MOTHER RUSSIA AS WELL. AS LONG AS HE LIVES, OUR COUNTRY WILL SURVIVE.

BUT YOUR FATHER REFUSED TO HEED MY PROPHETIES.

YOUR BROTHER DIDN'T HAVE TO DIE LIKE THIS...

MOVE

COME, ANASTASIA.

WE MUST GO THE PAST, AND CHANGE HISTORY.

I ONCE SWORE TO SAVE THE LIFE OF POOR ALEXEI, WHO SUFFERED FROM HEMOPHILIA.

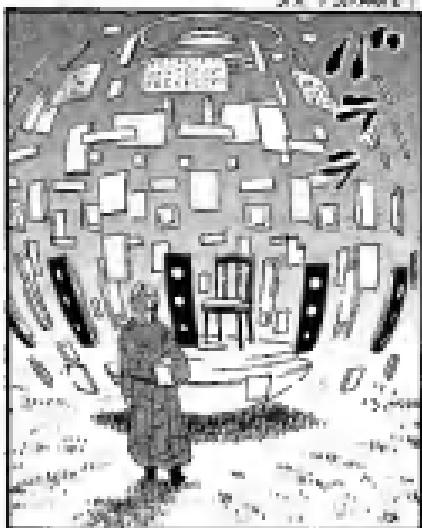
LEAVE

I WON'T LET HIM DIE NOW.

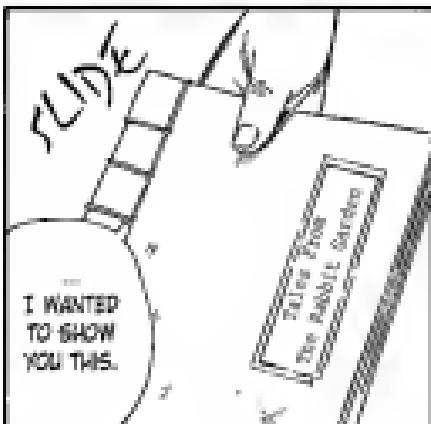
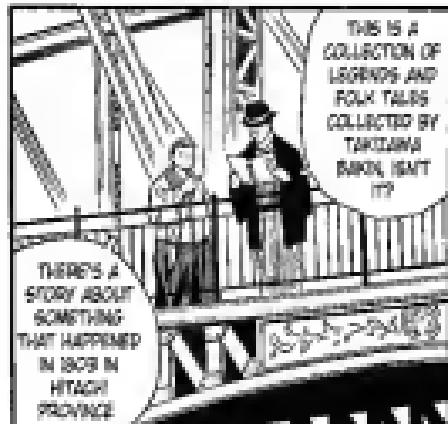
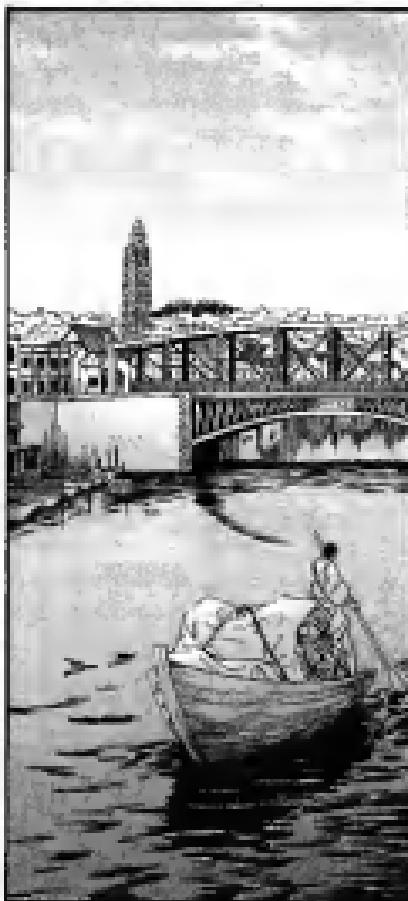
FATHER, CAN YOU REALLY SAVE HIM?

I CAN RESTORE HIS LIFE... BUT HE WILL NEED BLOOD TO SURVIVE.









INSIDE WAS A FOREIGN WOMAN. SHE HAD A BOX THAT WAS ABOUT TWO FEET LONG, AND SHE CARRIED IT SO TIGHTLY THAT ONE COULD ONLY IMAGINE THAT THE CONTENTS WERE VERY PRECIOUS TO HER...



ITCHU INSTITUTE OF LEARNING, OGASHAWARA CITY, 1873... A STRANGE SHIP ARRIVED FROM A DISTANT LAND BEYOND TIME...



IT REMINDS ME OF A SHORT STORY CALLED 'THE TIME MACHINE' BY H.G. WELLS... SEE, TAKARINA-KUN, YOU SHOULD WRITE A STORY ABOUT THIS, TOO.



SHE REALLY WAS A TIME TRAVELER...

DON'T TOUCH THAT!

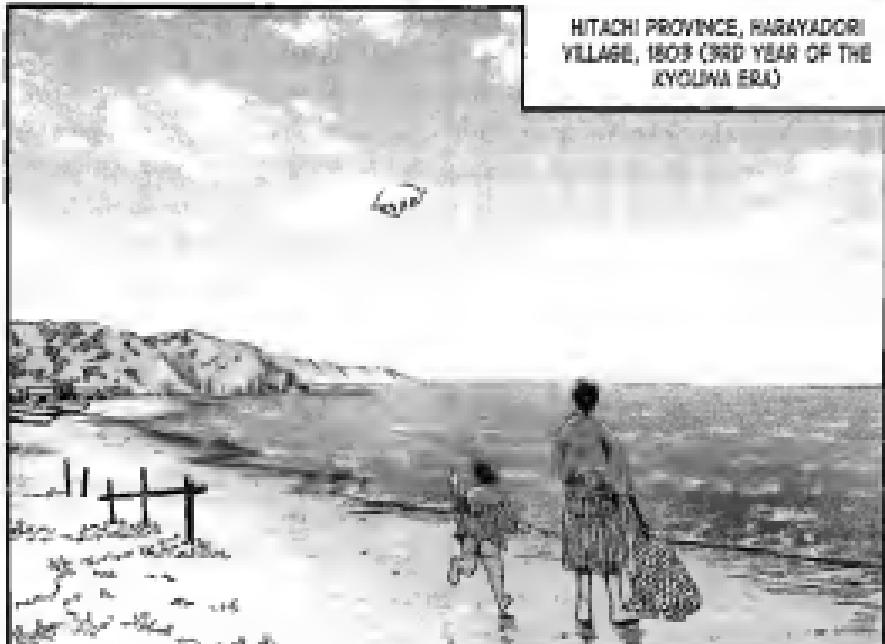


OH, WHAT'S THIS?



OH, GIVE IT A REST...





Chapter 3 - The Tale of the Utsuro-bune - The End

Translator's Notes

93 The title of this chapter refers to the story of the Utsuro-bune, one of the first "UFO" legends, which was written about by Nagigita Matsuo Kuni. (Utsuro-bune and Utsubo-bune both mean "hollow ship," but the "utsuro" spelling is more common.) According to the story, a strange capsule-like ship washed ashore in eastern Japan in 1823. A beautiful woman with red and white hair emerged from the ship, carrying a large box that she allowed no one to touch. After failing to communicate with the villagers, she returned to her ship and disappeared. "Utsubo" can also refer to hollow vessels (such as boxes, bottles or gourds) that contain gods or spirits. So "utsubo" means that something is both "empty" and spiritually "full."

94 The strange symbols are said to be the writing that was found written inside the Utsuro-bune. The symbols sort of resemble Glagolitic (an old Slavic writing system), but they aren't part of any known language.

94 The little girl is Anastasia, daughter of the last Russian emperor, and her brother is Prince Alexei. Both were murdered by revolutionaries along with the rest of their family in 1918... but rumors that Anastasia had survived persisted for decades. Prince Alexei suffered from hemophilia, a genetic disorder that caused uncontrollable bleeding. His desperate mother turned to a faith healer, Rasputin, to save her son. Rasputin gradually gained power within the Imperial court and came to symbolize the public's growing resentment towards the Imperial family. He was assassinated in 1916, shortly before the Imperial family was placed under house arrest.

97 The Russo-Japanese war (1904-1905) is a major background plot point in this series. It was Japan's first modern war, and Japan's victory put the country on the world political stage. However, there were heavy Japanese casualties due to disease and malnutrition.

99 Shoutoku Taishi was a Japanese prince in the Late Sôki who ruled as regent for Empress Suiko. He was a genius who reformed the political system, created Japan's first constitution, and promoted Buddhism. Additionally, he's renowned for his mystical power of foresight.

105 Akiyoshi Kozueiyo was a Japanese military official who set up a spy network throughout Europe in the early 1900s. He even managed to recruit British intelligence officer Sidney Reilly - the inspiration for James Bond - to secretly work for Japan. Akiyoshi used his connections to funnel money and supplies to Russian anarchist groups, which weakened Russia's military strength during the Russo-Japanese war.

110 Takehiko Kanekijyo was a Japanese politician (and former English teacher) who played a prominent role in the Russo-Japanese war by securing foreign funding from the US and England. He eventually became Prime Minister. If you couldn't tell, Osaka Eiji really likes name-dropping random Japanese historical figures in this manga!



MATSUOKA KUNIO
youkai
exterminator